

Report to	Chippenham Area Board
Date of Meeting	30th April 2012
Title of Report	Area Board Funding

Purpose of Report

To ask Councillors to consider:

1. 1 application seeking 2012/13 Area Board Funding: Area Board Project - Award £2,000 for Olympic Torch Day Celebrations in Chippenham on 23rd May 2012
2. Delegation to Community Area Manager in consultation with Chairman and/or Vice Chairman, to approve expenditure of up to £1,000 between Area Board Meetings

1. Background

- 1.1. Area Boards have authority to approve Area Grants under powers delegated to them by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Adult Care, Communities and Housing (4th April 2012). Under the Scheme of Delegation Area Boards must adhere to the Area Board Grants Guidance 2012/2013.
- 1.2. In accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, any decision of an Area Board that is contrary to the funding criteria and/or the officer's recommendation would need to demonstrate that the application in question has a wider community benefit, and give specific reasons for why this should justify an exception to the criteria.
- 1.3. The emphasis in the Coalition Government's Localism agenda supports the ethos of volunteering and community involvement and the nurturing of resilient communities. With this in mind Community Area Grants (CAGs) should be encouraged from and awarded to community and voluntary groups. Likewise, Small Grants (new this year) should be awarded to similar groups, as well as un-constituted groups of people wanting to improve things near to where they live.
- 1.4. Chippenham Area Board has been allocated a 2012/2013 budget of **£68,917** for Community Area Grants, Small Grants, Community Partnership core funding and Area Board/Councillor Led initiatives.
- 1.5. Applications of up to and including £1,000 can be made for a Community Area Grant, which will not require matched funding. Amounts of £1,000 - £5000 will be required to find matched funding. The Area Board will not normally award more than £5,000.
- 1.6. Small Grants, new for this year will fund up to £350, where the total cost of the project does not exceed £350. This grant is aimed at enabling groups (including those not formally constituted) to implement projects, involving local people to make their community a better place to live.
- 1.7. Area Boards will not consider Community Area Grant (CAG) applications from Town and Parish councils for purposes that relate to their statutory duties or powers that should be funded from the local Town/Parish precept. However this does not preclude bids from Town/Parish councils, encouraging community projects that provide new opportunities for local people or those functions that are not the sole responsibility of the Town/Parish council.
- 1.8. In addition to CAGs and Small Grants, Councillors can submit an Area Board/Councillor Led Initiative. This enables Area Boards to tackle community issues and/or community identified priorities. Cabinet has emphasised that it does not wish these applications to be used to avoid complying with Community Area Grant criteria or for filling gaps where there are council service shortfalls. The application process and form has been updated to bring it in line with the other grants.

- 1.9. Officers are required to provide recommendations in their funding reports (except in the case of Area Board/Councillor led initiatives), although the decision to support applications is made by Wiltshire Councillors on the Area Board.
- 1.10. Funding applications will be considered at every Area Board meeting.
- 1.11. Applicants are encouraged to contact and seek funding help from Charities Information Bureau (CIB) who work on behalf of Wiltshire Council. CIB support community and voluntary groups, town and parish councils to seek funding for community projects and schemes both from the Area Board and other local and national funding sources.
- 1.12. The 2012/2013 funding criteria and application forms are available on the council's website (www.wiltshire.gov.uk/areaboards) and paper versions are available from the Community Area Manager.
- 1.13. A decision was been made in 2010/2011 that paper copies of funding applications will no longer appear as part of the agenda in an attempt to reduce volume of paper used. However, the application forms will be available on the Wiltshire Council web site and hard copies available upon request.
- 1.14. All recipients of Area Board funding are expected to complete and return an evaluation form as soon as the project or activity has been completed and this should be accompanied by receipts and invoices, as well as photographs if possible. Failure to return the evaluation requested will preclude them from being considered for any future funding from the Area Board. This applies to all grants made by the Area Board.
- 1.15. On 17th January 2011, Chippenham Area Board took the decision to delegate responsibility to the Community Area Manager, in consultation with the Area Board Chairman and/or Vice Chairman, to approve expenditure of up to £200 between Area Board meetings.
- 1.16. Since this delegation was awarded, it has been utilised in full and the sum of £200 is considered to be too low to enable some decisions to be made, requiring proposals to be put to the Area Board which could lead to potential delays in some activities.
- 1.17. An informal audit of the Council's 18 Area Board's indicated that most Area Boards had taken the decision to delegate a sum of between £500 and £1,000 to the Community Area Manager in consultation with the Area Board Chairman.
- 1.18. The proposal to increase the delegated power to the Community Area Manager in consultation with the Area Board Chairman would enable urgent decisions to be made without the need for an extraordinary meeting or to wait until the next Area Board meeting. The details of any decisions made under this delegation would be reported to the next meeting of the Area Board to ensure transparency.

- 1.19. The delegated power is only intended to be used for matters of urgency which cannot wait until the next meeting of the Area Board and would not be used as a matter of routine. The majority of decisions will continue to be taken at a public meeting
- 1.20. A budget ring-fenced for the needs of young people will again be made available in 2012/2013. How this will be allocated will be the decision of the Area Board.
- 1.21. Chippenham Area Board has a separate Community Area Transport Group (CATG) budget of £18,000 for 2012/13.

<p>Background documents used in the preparation of this Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area Board Grant Guidance 2012/13 as presented for delegated decision • Chippenham and Villages Community Area Plan
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2. Main Considerations

- 2.1. Councillors will need to be satisfied that grants awarded in the 2012/13 year are made to projects that can realistically proceed within a year of the award being made.
- 2.2. There will be 6 rounds of funding during 2012/2013. The first is contained in this report the remaining will take place on:
- 9th July 2012
 - 3rd September 2012
 - 5th November 2012
 - 7th January 2013
 - 4th March 2013

3. Environmental & Community Implications

- 3.1. Area Board Grants contribute to the continuance and/or improvement of cultural, social and community activity and wellbeing in the community area, the extent and specifics of which will be dependent upon the individual project.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1. Awards must fall within the Area Boards budget allocated to the Chippenham Area Board.
- 4.2. If grants are awarded in line with officer recommendations, Chippenham Area Board will have a balance of **£66,917**

5. Legal Implications

5.1. There are no specific Legal implications related to this report.

6. HR Implications

6.1. There are no specific HR implications related to this report.

7. Equality and Inclusion Implications

7.1. Community Area Grants and Small Grants will give local community and voluntary groups, town and parish council's equal opportunity to receive funding towards community based projects and schemes, where they meet the funding criteria.

7.2. Implications relating to individual grant applications are outlined within section 8 – "Officer Recommendations".

8. Officer recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Project proposal	Funding requested
8.1	Area Board Project	Olympic Torch Day Celebrations	£2,000

8.1.1. Funding is sought to cover 50% of the costs for celebrations in the town when the Olympic Torch Relay passes through Chippenham on 23rd May 2012.

8.1.2. This application meets grant criteria 2012/13

8.1.3. This application demonstrates a link to the Community Plan "Increase support for community facilities and events".

8.1.4. Chippenham Area Board is working in partnership with Chippenham Town Council to deliver a programme of activities on Olympic Torch Day including:

- Banner and bunting to decorate the route
- Jazz band
- Ugandan Choir
- Sports Mascots & costume characters fun races
- Certificates presented to Olympic Torch Bearers
- Refreshments for Torch Bearers

8.2. Delegation to Community Area Manager in consultation with Chairman and/or Vice Chairman, to approve expenditure of up to £1,000 between Area Board Meetings

Appendices:	Appendix 1 Area Board Project application – Olympic Torch Day Celebrations
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No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report.

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